

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

October 18, 2023

- Present: Renee Hernandez (KF), Jennifer Cole (Keno), Spider (S.R.), Katie Walker (Malin), Scott Siracusa (KF), Joe Spendolini (S.S.), Kelley Minty (BOCC), Nathalie Johnston (Director), Cindy Williams (Recorder). Guest: Lois Taysom (Zoom).
- Call to order: 12:01 p.m.
- Minutes: M/S/Approved.
- Membership: Joe nominated Scott to Chair the board, Spider seconded, Approved. Jennifer volunteered to be Co-Chair, Joe seconded, Approved.

Branch Reports: Ann emailed her report: *Bonanza Library business has certainly picked up now that school is in session again. We have established a schedule to work with 9 different grade school classes, K-5. The classes this year are more active about visiting the library compared to previous years. When they are not visiting the library, then I make trips to their classrooms to read stories to them or to give presentations on topics requested by the teachers. Grades 3-5 have all filled out library card applications, which is a great way not only to issue new cards, but to also get updated information on current card holders.*

We are hosting cursive classes again with the delightful Mrs. Linda Kay Wilks, a "retired" grade schoolteacher. Many homeschooling families take advantage of the opportunity for the children to learn not just cursive, but printing, too. Mrs. Linda Kay likes to tell them funny riddles and jokes, and sneaks in a bit of English composition by having the children practice their cursive by writing about their favorite activities. While Cursive class is going on, Storytime is taking place in the library with the younger siblings.

We are also being paid weekly visits from two HeadStart groups for stories, singing and activities.

The branch is very excited that Nathalie authorized the ordering of a custom bookshelf for the front of the library! This is one of the final changes needed to reorganize the front part of the library, making it more efficient and less cluttered. We now have only one, round computer table divided into 4 segments, which has eliminated the use for 2 additional bulky tables. We now have a clear plastic brochure holder affixed to the wall, which has eliminated all the STUFF that accumulates on tables, making them unable to be used. This new bookshelf will help us to reorganize several collections, making more space in the rest of the library. The whole area now feels much larger and looks so much tidier.

Scott asked if there were any concerns regarding the Bonanza branch. Nathalie said that the community is very supportive, and The Library Foundation received a \$5,000.00 donation from a former member of the community to construct the greenhouse.

Chiloquin is doing great and staff handled the Active Shooter situation the correct way. They locked the doors, stayed away from windows, and locked down until the situation was over.

Jennifer reported that Journey Lee is the new Branch Assistant for Keno. Robby McNabb is volunteering and is very helpful. The calendar is full of activities, and they would like to extend their closing time to 5:30 if possible to accommodate more kids accessing the library after school. Nathalie said that the branches are open 18 hours per week due to staffing concerns. It may be possible for the branch to be open from 12:30 to 6 one day a week when a substitute is hired. Jennifer will speak with someone from the school to see if the kids can walk to the library. There are safety issues with the kids crossing the highway. Scott suggested that the communities could be surveyed to see what the needs are for each branch. Nathalie will work on an online survey.

Katie reported that their annual pumpkin giveaway was successful. Christa is offering Halloween crafts after school in Merrill.

Joe reported that S.S. has two story times a week for Wobblers and Toddlers and PreK. Attendance is slightly lower now that summer is over. Patrons are checking out devices or using their own devices to access the wi-fi. Programs are being offered by the Northside Garden Club and a Rhoni is leading a neighborhood walking group.

Spider reported that Sprague River has more homeschool kids attending the library. Everything is going well and they are happy with the new printer. Joyce's son is installing a new bench outside the library so that patrons can sit and access the internet. On October 28th the branch will give out goodie bags and crafts, and they installed a spooky book display. A local food collection bin is in the library.

Renee reported that the Multnomah Library is undergoing renovation and has similar railings as the library.

Director:

Nathalie reported that Charla left without completing several grant reports. Staff are working together very well to cover the department needs until a replacement is hired. The Finch Robot timeline is being moved to Spring. The library has fifty robots that teach kids how to code. Staff will be trained, and families and schools can borrow the robots.

The branch In-Service will be held on November 3rd and the Klamath Falls Police Department will do in person Active Shooter training. Scott suggested that the police should also do in person walk-throughs at each branch to assist staff in finding the best way to deal with situations at their branch. Staff are trained in active shooter, fire, earthquake, etc.

Nathalie will attend the Public Library Director's meeting next week and just came back from the Southern Oregon Library Federations meeting on the coast. Staff recruitment and retention are a big issue in the library community.

The B.O.C.C. approved Nathalie's request to close Sundays on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. The library is open from 1-4 on Sunday.

Scott asked if there were any more issues with homeless people camping on library property and Nathalie said that the fencing is working and there are no issues so far. The Library Foundation will be using Collier Foundation funds to improve the landscape and create natural barriers.

B.O.C.C.

Commissioner Minty suggested that Behavioral Health staff could have office space in the library to assist patrons with issues. Nathalie said that prior to Covid

their staff met in the video-conference room on Wednesdays, but patrons were not interested in talking with them. Nathalie refers patrons who need assistance to the D.H.S. office across the street. Kelley asked about the signage policy in the library. Nathalie said that the policy is on the website and the Advisory Board would like to review it at the next meeting.

New Business: Feedback on Library Program Policy and Library Room Policy: Spider asked what the age limit was to reserve a room 18 or 21? It is 18.

Updated Policy on Membership and Appointment: Spider said that it is very difficult to recruit new members in the rural communities and asked if there were any ways to reach out to applicants. Kelley said that their staff go through the Advisory board vacancies once a month and that they will be using social media to recruit new members. The emergency waiver is still available. Spider said that there is a new newsletter upcoming for the Sprague River area and he would like to contribute articles related to the library. The board suggested that Spider send his article to Nathalie to review before submitting.

The board would like to review hours for branches at the next meeting and survey the community to see if the community needs are being met.

The board asked about changing the meeting from monthly to every other month or quarterly. Nathalie said that they would have to change their by-laws. Scott made a motion to suggest to the B.O.C.C. that they change the language of the By-Laws to indicate that the LAB will be meeting quarterly at a minimum. Any member can ask the Chair or Library Director to request an emergency meeting. Joe seconded the motion. Approved. Nathalie will send the by-laws to members to revise at the next meeting.

Adjourned: 12:56 p.m.

Next Meeting: Noon November 15, 2023. In person and via Zoom.